

### **REMARKS**

Claims 1, 4, 7, 11, 14, 17, 21, 25, 26, 30, 31 and 35 have been amended. Claims 3, 13, 24, 29 and 34 have been cancelled. No new claims have been added. Claims 1-2, 4-12, 14-23, 25-28, 30-33 and 35 are pending.

The Examiner earlier rejected the claims under 35 USC § 103 as obvious from Smith et al. (US Patent No. 6,091,802) in view of Averbuj (US Patent Publication No. 20050257109). The Board upheld the rejection.

Claims 1, 11, 21, 26 and 31 are independent. The independent claims have been amended such that they are patentable over the cited references.

The claiming of an “application thread” in the independent claims has been amended to recite that the “application thread is a light weight thread capable of invoking the extended operations, the application thread requiring a smaller amount of memory, less processor power, and less communication with the operating system when compared to traditional threads.” The cited references fail to disclose the claimed application thread.

Claims 21, 26 and 31 have been amended to recite an I/O multiplexor between the operating system and the protocol engines. The cited references fail to disclose the claimed I/O multiplexor.

Moreover, claim 21 more specifically recites that the I/O multiplexor operates in both user space and operating system space. The cited references fail to disclose the claimed I/O multiplexor having these limitations.

#### ***Disclaimers Relating to Claim Interpretation and Prosecution History Estoppel***

The claims of this application are intended to stand on their own and are not to be read in light of the prosecution history of any related or unrelated patent or patent application. Furthermore, no arguments in any prosecution history relate to any claim in this application.

***Additional Statements***

The Examiner's consideration of the references of record is appreciated. It is presumed that the Examiner has considered the entire disclosure of each of the references of record with respect to anticipation (individually) and obviousness (in any combination).

References to "Applicant" herein are to the assignee of record, which the undersigned represents. An assignment has been recorded, and a Statement of Ownership and a General Power of Attorney have also been filed. Thus, the rights of the original Applicants/inventors have been excluded.

With respect to this filing, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 503456. Please consider this paper to be a petition for extension of time, if necessary.

**Conclusion**

For the reasons set forth above, all claims are patentable over the combination of references. As such, this rejection should be withdrawn. It is submitted, however, that the independent and dependent claims include other significant and substantial recitations which are not disclosed in the cited references. Thus, the claims are also patentable for additional reasons. However, for economy the additional grounds for patentability are not set forth here.

In view of all of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested and allowance at an early date is solicited.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned to answer any questions or to discuss steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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